

The specification stands objected to due to an informality on page 12. That informality has been corrected herein.

Drawings

The Examiner has indicated that the drawings on file in the application are acceptable for examination purposes. Applicant notes the objection to the drawing on form PTO-948 and that formal drawings will be required upon allowance of the application.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the electronic publication RCT's Tips for Investors (RCT) and further in view of the electronic publication Venture Management Firm Launches On-line Forum (Venture)

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the RCT and Venture references and further in view of the article "Revolution or Evolution? W.R. Hambrecht & Co. Brings Underwriting to the Internet," The IPO Reporter, v. 23, No. 7, p. 4, Feb. 1999 (hereinafter "The IPO Reporter").

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the RCT and Venture references and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,462 to McNabb.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the RT reference and further in view of the article by Mark Leibovich entitled "Journey into the Secret Heart of Capitalism," The Washington Post, August 9, 1998 (Leibovich).

Claim 9-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the RCT and Leibovich references and further in view of the IPO Reporter article.

Claim 1 In response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a), applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, which has been canceled. Applicant

respectfully contends that claim 1 as so amended distinguishes over the art and concomitantly traverses the Examiner's rejection of claim 2.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a method for facilitating financing of new technology, wherein a host computer is connected to a global computer network for receiving, over the network from remote computers, information describing purported advances in technology. The host computer is accessed, for example, by a user, to obtain the information downloaded from the global computer network. An evaluation of the advances in technology so obtained is then performed to determine, for each of the advances, a fixed monetary amount to be contributed in exchange for a unit of equity in a prospective technology development venture to develop the respective advance. Identifications of the advances together with respective values of the determined fixed monetary amounts are transmitted over the global computer network to preselected computers. The host computer is operated to receive, over the network from at least some of the preselected computers, respective bids for desired numbers of units of equity in the technology development ventures.

Applicant's invention contemplates that the values of different technology inventions are determined and fixed and that these fixed amounts or prices are transmitted over the Internet to multiple prospective investors who then submit bids (requests) for respective numbers of equity shares at the determined prices. This methodology is not suggested by the references of record and particularly by the references relied on by the Examiner in rejecting claim 2 of the instant application.

RCT, the primary reference relied on by the Examiner in rejecting claim 1, teaches a business method wherein proposed technologies are appraised by groups of RCT employees or consultants (scientists, engineers, chemists). These technological groups work with RCT's

Venture Development and Corporate Finance Departments. The venture and corporate groups create and carry out development and financing plans for adding value to early stage technologies.

It is evident from the RCT reference that the various groups are all parts of a unitary RCT business collective. The technology, venture and corporate groups all appear to be in-house departments. The RCT reference provides the impression that the technology groups and the venture and corporate groups communicate with each other via oral communications or presentations at meetings.

The Examiner maintains that the Venture reference suggests that identifications of technological advances together with respective values of determined fixed monetary amounts for units of equity are transmitted over a global computer network to preselected computers. But the Venture reference only says that there is an exchange of information and ideas among entrepreneurs and investors. The Venture references says nothing about the transmission of monetary values. The Venture reference more particularly says nothing about transmitting a fixed share price to multiple potential investors via the Internet. The Venture reference might at the very most suggest that a single entrepreneur and a single investor might transmit between themselves proposed investment amounts and corresponding proposed equity stakes. A fixed and predetermined equity price would not be determined and then transmitted to multiple potential investors.

The IPO reporter article does not suggest this process either. The IPO Reporter article does not suggest the determination of a fixed monetary amount for a unit of equity in a proposed technology venture and the transmission of that fixed monetary amount to multiple potential investors in a solicitation of bids for numbers of shares at the fixed price. Instead, with respect to

the bidding process, the IPO Reporter article specifically teaches the opposite, namely, the determination of a number of shares and the solicitation of bids on the price of that number of shares. None of the other references of record can provide any motivation for doing the opposite of what is clearly taught by the IPO Reporter article.

Claim 8 Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 8.

As set forth in claim 8, a business method for enhancing investment in new technologies comprises (i) selecting a predetermined number of potential investors, (ii) transmitting, to the potential investors, investment opportunities each comprising an identification of purportedly new technology and a fixed monetary amount to be exchanged in return for a predetermined unit of equity in a prospective technology development venture to develop the respective technology, (iii) receiving bids for units of equity from at least some of the investors, (iv) recording identities of the bidding investors and the numbers of units of equity bid, (v) automatically tallying total units bid, and (vi) terminating bidding upon attainment of a predetermined number of units bid.

Nothing in the prior art of record, particularly in the references relied on by the Examiner, suggests a method including the transmitting, to multiple potential investors, of an identification of purportedly new technology and a fixed price of equity shares in a respective technology development venture and the receiving of bids for units of equity from at least some of the investors. Conventional bidding, as taught by the IPO Reporter reference, is on price for a fixed number of shares (one share, 100 shares, etc).

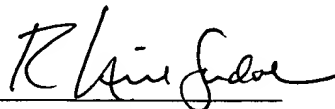
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claim 1, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, is deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT IN APPLICATION NO. 09/329/668 SHOWING
MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPH**

Page 12, amend the only full paragraph as follows:

As illustrated in Fig. [3] 4, host computer 18 includes a interface 72 connected to the Internet 12 for transmitting and receiving electronic mail messages and for accessing the World Wide Web. Interface 72, as well as a technology tracking unit 74, may be parts of a web browser 76. Interface 72 detects the presence of investor bids or purchase orders and forwards this information to an input buffer 78 for temporary storage. Buffer 78 is connected to a bid tracking module 80 which parses incoming bids to determine investor identities, the relevant investment opportunities, and the numbers of shares or investment units. Bid tracking module 80 is connected to a summing circuit 82 which accesses memory 52 to determine the total numbers of shares or investment units which have been purchased during an on-line investment process as described hereinabove. Bid tracking module 80 is also connected to a recordation unit 84 which updates information stored in memory 52, including bid or subscriptions totals as well as the identities of bidding investors and their respective bid or purchase orders. In addition, bid tracking module 80 is connected to display 36 and printer 38 for informing supervisory personnel, e.g., the evaluation committee of the bid or investment status for any business opportunity currently outstanding for investment.

**APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT IN APPLICATION NO. 09/329/668 SHOWING
MARKED UP VERSIONS OF AMENDED CLAIMS**

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method for facilitating financing of new technology, comprising:
maintaining a host computer connected to a global computer network for receiving, over
said network from remote computers, information describing purported advances in technology;
accessing said host computer to obtain said information;
performing an evaluation of said advances in technology to determine, for each of said
advances, a fixed monetary amount to be contributed in exchange for a unit of equity in a
prospective technology development venture to develop the respective one of said advances;
[and]

transmitting, over said global computer network to preselected computers, identifications
of said advances together with respective values of the determined fixed monetary amounts; and
operating said host computer to receive, over said network from at least some of said
preselected computers, respective bids for desired numbers of units of equity in the technology
development ventures.

Amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Once Amended) The method defined in claim [2] 1, further comprising:
setting a maximum number of units of equity on which bids may be made for each of said
advances;
operating said host computer to automatically tally totals of units of equity bid for each of
said advances; and

for each of said advances, operating said host computer to transmit a bidding termination signal to each of said preselected computers upon the attainment of the respective maximum number of units of equity.